

In re Patent Application of:
CHAPMAN ET AL.
Serial No. 09/596,629
Confirmation No. 4379
Filing Date: June 19, 2000

In the Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for distributing an invention disclosure over an intranet, the method comprising the steps of:

accessing an invention disclosure template form over the intranet;

creating an invention disclosure using the invention disclosure template form, the invention disclosure being created by an inventor and including information about an invention;

selecting an option in the invention disclosure template form to include an attachment with the invention disclosure;

attaching a file to the invention disclosure without the use of a hyperlink, the file being created by the inventor separate from the invention disclosure and including information about the invention that is not included in the invention disclosure;

submitting the invention disclosure along with the attached file over the intranet to at least one evaluator via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure; and

transmitting evaluation comments on the invention disclosure and the attached file by the at least one evaluator via e-mail.

2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the intranet includes a plurality of users enrolled therein with each user having associated personnel information stored within the intranet, the method further comprising the steps

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of:

creating a profile of the invention disclosure based upon a technical area relating to the invention disclosure in response to accessing associated personnel information of the inventor; and

transmitting a first notification message via e-mail to a first group of users based upon the created profile, the first group of users being within the plurality of users and including a technical review coordinator, the first notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

3. (Original) A method according to Claim 2, wherein the at least one evaluator is selected by the technical review coordinator.

4. (Original) A method according to Claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

submitting a recommendation of the invention disclosure by the technical review coordinator based upon the evaluation comments; and

transmitting the recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail to the first group of users.

5. (Original) A method according to Claim 2, wherein the step of transmitting the first notification message is responsive to submission of the invention disclosure.

6. (Original) A method according to Claim 2, wherein the profile comprises a functional manager of the inventor, a

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patent attorney, a technical review person, and a contracts person if the invention was developed under government funds.

7. (Original) A method according to Claim 6, wherein the profile further comprises information relating to the inventor including the inventor's employee number, department number, building number, phone number and e-mail address.

8. (Original) A method according to Claim 2, wherein the first group of users comprises a technical review coordinator, a contract administrator if the invention was developed under government funds, and an intellectual property administrator.

9. (Original) A method according to Claim 8, wherein the first group of users further comprises a business area manager, a supervisor of the inventor, and the inventor.

Claim 10 (Cancelled).

11. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of creating comprises sending a notification message to a co-inventor, the notification message being transmitted via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

12. (Previously Presented) A method for distributing an invention disclosure over an intranet, the intranet having a plurality of users enrolled therein with each user having associated personnel information stored within the intranet,

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the method comprising the steps of:

accessing an invention disclosure template form over the intranet;

creating an invention disclosure using the invention disclosure template form, the invention disclosure being created by an inventor and including information about an invention;

selecting an option in the invention disclosure template form to include an attachment with the invention disclosure;

attaching a file to the invention disclosure without the use of a hyperlink, the file being created by the inventor separate from the invention disclosure and including information about the invention that is not included in the invention disclosure;

submitting the invention disclosure along with the attached file over the intranet;

creating a profile of the invention disclosure based upon a technical area relating to the invention disclosure in response to accessing associated personnel information of the inventor;

transmitting a first notification message via e-mail to a first group of users based upon the created profile, the first group of users being within the plurality of users and including a technical review coordinator, the first notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure;

selecting at least one evaluator by the technical review coordinator;

transmitting a second notification message via e-

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mail to the at least one evaluator, the second notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure;

submitting evaluation comments by the at least one evaluator;

submitting a recommendation of the invention disclosure by the technical review coordinator based upon the evaluation comments; and

transmitting the recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail to the first group of users.

13. (Original) A method according to Claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting a third notification message via e-mail to a second group of users based upon the created profile, the second group of users being within the plurality of users; and

transmitting the recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail to the second group of users.

14. (Original) A method according to Claim 13, wherein the step of transmitting the third notification message is responsive to submission of the invention disclosure.

15. (Original) A method according to Claim 13, wherein the second group of users comprises a business area manager, a supervisor of the inventor, and the inventor.

16. (Original) A method according to Claim 12, wherein the step of transmitting the first notification message is responsive to submission of the invention

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disclosure.

17. (Original) A method according to Claim 12, wherein the profile comprises a functional manager of the inventor, a patent attorney, a technical review person, and a contracts person if the invention was developed under government funds.

18. (Original) A method according to Claim 17, wherein the profile further comprises information relating to the inventor including the inventor's employee number, department number, building number, phone number and e-mail address.

19. (Original) A method according to Claim 12, wherein the first group of users comprises a technical review coordinator, a contract administrator if the invention was developed under government funds, and an intellectual property administrator.

Claim 20 (Cancelled).

21. (Original) A method according to Claim 12, wherein the step of creating comprises sending a notification message to a co-inventor, the notification message being transmitted via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

22. (Previously Presented) A method for distributing an invention disclosure over an intranet, the intranet having

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a plurality of users enrolled therein with each user having associated personnel information stored within the intranet, the method comprising the steps of:

accessing an invention disclosure template form over the intranet;

creating an invention disclosure using the invention disclosure template form, the invention disclosure being created by an inventor and including information about an invention;

selecting an option in the invention disclosure template form to include an attachment with the invention disclosure;

attaching a file to the invention disclosure without the use of a hyperlink, the file being created by the inventor separate from the invention disclosure and including information about the invention that is not included in the invention disclosure;

submitting the invention disclosure along with the attached file over the intranet;

creating a profile of the invention disclosure based upon a technical area relating to the invention disclosure in response to accessing associated personnel information of the inventor;

transmitting a first notification message via e-mail to a first group of users based upon the created profile, the first group of users being within the plurality of users;

transmitting a second notification message via e-mail to a second group of users based upon the created profile, the second group of users being within the plurality of users and including a technical review coordinator, the

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second notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure;

selecting at least one evaluator by the technical review coordinator;

transmitting a third notification message via e-mail to the at least one evaluator, the third notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure;

submitting evaluation comments by the at least one evaluator;

submitting a recommendation of the invention disclosure by the technical review coordinator based upon the evaluation comments; and

transmitting the recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail to the first and second group of users.

23. (Original) A method according to Claim 22, wherein the step of transmitting the first notification message is responsive to submission of the invention disclosure.

24. (Original) A method according to Claim 22, wherein the step of transmitting the second notification message is responsive to submission of the invention disclosure.

25. (Original) A method according to Claim 22, wherein the profile comprises a functional manager of the inventor, a patent attorney, a technical review person, and a contracts person if the invention was developed under government funds.

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26. (Original) A method according to Claim 25, wherein the profile further comprises information relating to the inventor including the inventor's employee number, department number, building number, phone number and e-mail address.

27. (Original) A method according to Claim 22, wherein the first group of users comprises a business area manager, a supervisor of the inventor, and the inventor.

28. (Original) A method according to Claim 22, wherein the second group of users comprises a technical review coordinator, a contract administrator if the invention was developed under government funds, and an intellectual property administrator.

Claim 29 (Cancelled).

30. (Original) A method according to Claim 22, wherein the step of creating comprises sending a notification message to a co-inventor, the notification message being transmitted via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

31. (Previously Presented) An intranet for distributing an invention disclosure comprising:
at least one computing device comprising a plurality of software modules, said plurality of software modules comprising

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a first software module for accessing an invention disclosure template form over the intranet,

a second software module for creating an invention disclosure using the invention disclosure template form, the invention disclosure being created by an inventor and including information about an invention,

a third software module for selecting an option in the invention disclosure template form to include an attachment with the invention disclosure,

a fourth software module for attaching a file to the invention disclosure without the use of a hyperlink, the file being created by the inventor separate from the invention disclosure and including information about the invention that is not included in the invention disclosure,

a fifth software module for submitting the invention disclosure along with the attached file over the intranet to at least one evaluator via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure, and

a sixth software module for transmitting evaluation comments on the invention disclosure and the attached file by the at least one evaluator via e-mail.

32. (Previously Presented) An intranet according to Claim 31, wherein the intranet includes a plurality of users enrolled therein with each user having associated personnel

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information stored within the intranet, further comprising:

a seventh software module for creating a profile of the invention disclosure based upon a technical area relating to the invention disclosure in response to accessing associated personnel information of the inventor; and

an eight software module for transmitting a first notification message via e-mail to a first group of users based upon the created profile, the first group of users being within the plurality of users and including a technical review coordinator, the first notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

33. (Original) An intranet according to Claim 32, wherein the at least one evaluator is selected by the technical review coordinator.

34. (Previously Presented) An intranet according to Claim 33, further comprising:

a ninth software module for submitting a recommendation of the invention disclosure by the technical review coordinator based upon the evaluation comments; and

a tenth software module for transmitting the recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail to the first group of users.

35. (Previously Presented) An intranet according to Claim 32, wherein the eighth software module for transmitting the first notification message is responsive to submission of the invention disclosure.

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36. (Original) An intranet according to Claim 32, wherein the profile comprises a functional manager of the inventor, a patent attorney, a technical review person, and a contracts person if the invention was developed under government funds.

37. (Original) An intranet according to Claim 36, wherein the profile further comprises information relating to the inventor including the inventor's employee number, department number, building number, phone number and e-mail address.

38. (Original) An intranet according to Claim 32, wherein the first group of users comprises a technical review coordinator, a contract administrator if the invention was developed under government funds, and an intellectual property administrator.

39. (Original) An intranet according to Claim 38, wherein the first group of users further comprises a business area manager, a supervisor of the inventor, and the inventor.

Claim 40 (Cancelled).

41. (Previously Presented) An intranet according to Claim 31, wherein the fifth software module comprises instructions for sending a notification message to a co-inventor, the notification message being transmitted via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

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42. (Previously Presented) An intranet for distributing an invention disclosure, the intranet having a plurality of users enrolled therein with each user having associated personnel information stored within the intranet, the intranet comprising:

at least one computing device comprising a plurality of software modules, said plurality of software modules comprising

a first software module for accessing an invention disclosure template form over the intranet;

a second software module for creating an invention disclosure using the invention disclosure template form, the invention disclosure being created by an inventor and including information about an invention;

a third software module for selecting an option in the invention disclosure template form to include an attachment with the invention disclosure;

a fourth software module for attaching a file to the invention disclosure without the use of a hyperlink, the file being created by the inventor separate from the invention disclosure and including information about the invention that is not included in the invention disclosure;

a fifth software module for submitting the invention disclosure along with the attached file over the intranet;

a sixth software module for creating a profile of the invention disclosure based upon a

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technical area relating to the invention disclosure in response to accessing associated personnel information of the inventor;

a seventh software module for transmitting a first notification message via e-mail to a first group of users based upon the created profile, the first group of users being within the plurality of users and including a technical review coordinator, the first notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure;

an eighth software module for selecting at least one evaluator by the technical review coordinator;

a ninth software module for transmitting a second notification message via e-mail to the at least one evaluator, the second notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure;

a tenth software module for submitting evaluation comments by the at least one evaluator;

an eleventh software module for submitting a recommendation of the invention disclosure by the technical review coordinator based upon the evaluation comments; and

a twelfth software module for transmitting the recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail to the first group of users.

43. (Previously Presented) An intranet according to Claim 42, further comprising:

a thirteenth software module for transmitting a

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third notification message via e-mail to a second group of users based upon the created profile, the second group of users being within the plurality of users; and

wherein the twelfth software module further transmits the recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail to the second group of users.

44. (Previously Presented) An intranet according to Claim 43, wherein the thirteenth software module for transmitting the third notification message is responsive to submission of the invention disclosure.

45. (Original) An intranet according to Claim 43, wherein the second group of users comprises a business area manager, a supervisor of the inventor, and the inventor.

46. (Previously Presented) An intranet according to Claim 42, wherein the seventh software module for transmitting the first notification message is responsive to submission of the invention disclosure.

47. (Original) An intranet according to Claim 42, wherein the profile comprises a functional manager of the inventor, a patent attorney, a technical review person, and a contracts person if the invention was developed under government funds.

48. (Original) An intranet according to Claim 47, wherein the profile further comprises information relating to the inventor including the inventor's employee number,

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department number, building number, phone number and e-mail address.

49. (Original) An intranet according to Claim 42, wherein the first group of users comprises a technical review coordinator, a contract administrator if the invention was developed under government funds, and an intellectual property administrator.

Claim 50 (Cancelled).

51. (Previously Presented) An intranet according to Claim 42, wherein the fifth software module further comprises instructions for sending a notification message to a co-inventor, the notification message being transmitted via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

52. (Previously Presented) An intranet for distributing an invention disclosure, the intranet having a plurality of users enrolled therein, each of the plurality of users having associated personnel information stored within the intranet, the intranet comprising:

at least one computing device comprising a plurality of software modules, said plurality of software modules comprising

a first software module for accessing an invention disclosure template form over the intranet;

a second software module for creating an invention disclosure using the invention disclosure

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template form, the invention disclosure being created by an inventor and including information about an invention;

a third software module for selecting an option in the invention disclosure template form to include an attachment with the invention disclosure;

a fourth software module for attaching a file to the invention disclosure without the use of a hyperlink, the file being created by the inventor separate from the invention disclosure and including information about the invention that is not included in the invention disclosure;

a fifth software module for submitting the invention disclosure along with the attached file over the intranet;

a sixth software module for creating a profile of the invention disclosure based upon a technical area relating to the invention disclosure in response to accessing associated personnel information of the inventor;

a seventh software module for transmitting a first notification message via e-mail to a first group of users based upon the created profile, the first group of users being within the plurality of users;

an eighth software module for transmitting a second notification message via e-mail to a second group of users based upon the created profile, the second group of users being within the plurality of users and including a technical review coordinator,

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the second notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure;

a ninth software module for selecting at least one evaluator by the technical review coordinator;

a tenth software module for transmitting a third notification message via e-mail to the at least one evaluator, the third notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure;

an eleventh software module for submitting evaluation comments by the at least one evaluator;

a twelfth software module for submitting a recommendation of the invention disclosure by the technical review coordinator based upon the evaluation comments; and

a thirteenth software module for transmitting the recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail to the first and second group of users.

53. (Previously Presented) An intranet according to Claim 52, wherein the seventh software module for transmitting the first notification message is responsive to submission of the invention disclosure.

54. (Previously Presented) An intranet according to Claim 52, wherein the eighth fourth software module for transmitting the second notification message is responsive to submission of the invention disclosure.

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55. (Original) An intranet according to Claim 52, wherein the profile comprises a functional manager of the inventor, a patent attorney, a technical review person, and a contracts person if the invention was developed under government funds.

56. (Original) An intranet according to Claim 55, wherein the profile further comprises information relating to the inventor including the inventor's employee number, department number, building number, phone number and e-mail address.

57. (Original) An intranet according to Claim 52, wherein the first group of users comprises a business area manager, a supervisor of the inventor, and the inventor.

58. (Original) An intranet according to Claim 52, wherein the second group of users comprises a technical review coordinator, a contract administrator if the invention was developed under government funds, and an intellectual property administrator.

Claim 59 (Cancelled).

60. (Previously Presented) An intranet according to Claim 52, wherein the fifth software module for creating the invention disclosure further comprises instructions for sending a notification message to a co-inventor, the notification message being transmitted via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

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61. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, comprising:

- a first data field containing data for accessing an invention disclosure template form over the intranet;
- a second data field containing data for creating an invention disclosure using the invention disclosure template form, the invention disclosure being created by an inventor and including information about an invention;
- a third data field containing data for selecting an option in the invention disclosure template form to include an attachment with the invention disclosure;
- a fifth data field containing data for attaching a file to the invention disclosure without the use of a hyperlink, the file being created by the inventor separate from the invention disclosure and including information about the invention that is not included in the invention disclosure;
- a sixth data field containing data for submitting the invention disclosure along with the attached file over the intranet to at least one evaluator via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure; and
- a seventh data field containing data for transmitting evaluation comments on the invention disclosure and the attached file by the at least one evaluator via e-mail.

62. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 61, wherein the intranet includes a plurality of users enrolled therein with each user having

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associated personnel information stored within the intranet, the computer-readable medium further comprising:

an eighth data field containing data representing a profile of the invention disclosure, the profile being based upon a technical area relating to the invention disclosure in response to accessing associated personnel information of the inventor; and

a ninth data field containing data representing a first notification message to be transmitted via e-mail to a first group of users based upon the created profile, the first group of users being within the plurality of users and including a technical review coordinator, the first notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

63. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 62, further comprising a tenth data field containing data representing selection of the at least one evaluator by the technical review coordinator.

64. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 63, further comprising:

an eleventh data field containing data representing a recommendation of the invention disclosure submitted by the technical review coordinator based upon the evaluation comments; and

a twelfth data field containing data representing an e-mail message of the recommendation of the invention disclosure to be transmitted to the first group of users.

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65. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 62, wherein the eighth data field containing data representing the profile comprises data representing a functional manager of the inventor, a patent attorney, a technical review person, and a contracts person if the invention was developed under government funds.

66. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 65, wherein the eighth data field further comprises data representing information relating to the inventor including the inventor's employee number, department number, building number, phone number and e-mail address.

67. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 62, wherein the ninth data field containing data representing the first group of users further comprises data representing a technical review coordinator, a contract administrator if the invention was developed under government funds, and an intellectual property administrator.

68. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 67, wherein the ninth data field further comprises data representing a business area manager, a supervisor of the inventor, and the inventor.

Claim 69 (Cancelled).

70. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 61, wherein the eighth data field

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further contains data representing a notification message to be transmitted to a co-inventor, the notification message to be transmitted via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

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